

## **Closet Detention**

*By Wendy Flores & Victoria Soto*

Have you ever been dress coded? According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, as of the 2007-2008 school year, 16.5% of all the public schools in the United States required students to wear uniforms. In addition, 54% enforce a strict dress code. The purpose of the dress code is to provide guidance to students and parents as to appropriate attire for school and any school function. The majority of students think uniforms are a bad idea as they force them to be the same as everyone else. For example, if students have dress code they won't be able to express themselves through their own style.

The first school dress code law was established in 1969 by the U.S. Supreme Court. Sometimes clothing can tell us something about what type of person we are based on our looks. There are many pros and cons for dress code. Some pros about dress code are that they prevent gangs from forming, encourage discipline, and help prevent the pressure of buying trendy clothes. The cons of dress code are that it violates the right to freedom of expression, makes students a target for bullies from other schools, and is a financial burden for poor families.

We walked around our school and interviewed one girl and one boy from each grade level. We started with 6th grade and interviewed Jesus C. He went to California Elementary School and didn't really like the strict dress code. We asked if he had gotten dress coded last year and he said yes, by Ms. Torres. Next, we asked which school he would go to if he were to get expelled for getting dress coded every day. Jesus told us he would go to Portola. After that, we did the same thing to each grade level and to each student. We noticed a lot of students telling us that we should and shouldn't have dress code for many different reasons.

Afterwards we interviewed a 6th grade girl named Lindsay Soto. We asked Lindsay the same questions. She said that she went to Taft and California for elementary school, but she said that California wasn't the best. As we were asking about dress code, she said they didn't really make them wear anything specific. We asked if she were to get dress coded, who would she think would be the one to dress code her? She responded Ms. Torres. Then, we interviewed two 7th graders.

The first 7th grader we interviewed was Jonluca. He went to California Elementary. He said that they wouldn't make them wear anything specific. He also said that California Elementary wasn't the best. After, we interviewed a girl named Yvette who went to West Orange Elementary and she said that West Orange was a good school. She said that they didn't really make them wear anything specific. We asked them both what school they would go to if they

were to be expelled for breaking the dress code rules. One said Portola and the other said Cerro Villa.

I'd say the interviews we got helped us find out a lot of information such as why or why not dress code is relevant. The majority of students, which was around 25 students, said they don't want dress code. The other 8 were the teachers or adults, who said students should have a dress code. One of the teachers said we should have a dress code since most students wouldn't know what to wear or would be judged by what they wear. Many of them had dress code in elementary themselves. Some of their schools were strict and some of them weren't. As you see here, there are many different opinions on dress code. We got the opinions of a lot of people. As you can tell, they all had different experiences but they've all ended up at Yorba Middle School and shared the experiences of their current dress code. Some of the students have the same experiences here of how they've gotten dress coded.

Resources :

<https://www.findlaw.com/>

[https://m.koshercasual.com/5-Benefits-of-a-School-Dress-Code\\_b.htm](https://m.koshercasual.com/5-Benefits-of-a-School-Dress-Code_b.htm)

<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategiesd-unfair-about-student-dress-codes>